GLOSSARY

allah - god
ajlaf - term used to describe converts from lower hindu castes
ashraf - term used to describe muslims claiming descent from the four groups of foreign extraction, viz., sayyad, shaik, mughal and pathan.
atfra-i-balda - city region
ayat - stanza from quran
azl - coitus interruptus
bismillah - ceremony signifying commencement of reading the quran
burga - hooded clock of black or any colour with two eyeholes, consisting of two parts, a coat and a cape-veil.
chadar - large shawl mainly used by women.
chunni - a piece of fine cloth meant to cover head and shoulders
churidar - pleated trousers, usually tight fitting round the ankles.
dinar - arabic currency
dupalli topi - skull cap
dahejor jahez - bride's trousseau
dupatta - see chunni
hadith - a technical term for a tradition of what the prophet said or did.
hakim - doctors practising unani medicine.
iddat - official period of separation between husband and wife prior to divorce
ijtihad - to form an opinion in legal matters to re-interpret the tradition.
imam - leader of the congregational islamic prayer.
itlaq - untying a knot.
izzat - respect, prestige.
jamat - collection of people.
jahilya - pre-islamic period.
kazi - civil court judge, keeper of the register of marriages contracted.
khandan - lineage, a consanguinal kingroup that traces common descent through known ancestors.
koran or quran - the holy book.
kurta - a loose garment reaching till knees worn with 'churidar' and 'salwar'. men wear it with pyjama.
khula - divorce taken by women.
khatun - lady.
lungi - a piece of cloth worn instead of trousers usually by arabs.
majlis - a religious gathering for shias.
madarsa - school
maktab - religious school.
mangni - engagement
mardana - part of the house reserved for men.
maulvi maulana - traditional islamic law scholar.
mataum-bil-maruf-reasonable standard of living.
mehar - dower promised by the husband to his wife at the time of marriage.
mehruma - cap
mehar muazil - woman is entitled to the dower money only after divorce.
mehar muwazil - dower money given at the time of marriage in cash or kind.
mehar sharai - dower according to quranic law.
meo - a muslim sect of haryana and rajasthan.
millat - a religious gathering of sunnis.
milad-un-nabi - the day prophet was born.
misrior turki topi - cap.
moharram - first month of the muslim calendar.
mohalla - quarter of a town, neighbourhood.
muajjal - immediate.
Muwajjal - deferred
mubarat - mutual consent.
namaz - prayer
nasl - breed
Nihlah - honey
nikah - marriage
nikah-nama- document in which the condition of marriage contract are stated.
pacchisi-atthachamma - local games played by men & women.
purdah - curtain, by extension, separation, seclusion.
peshwa - leader.
pashtu - language name
pjyama - loose trousers worn by muslims.
quran - name of the holy book.
rishta - marriage proposal sent from the boys to the girls.
salwar - trousers worn by women.
shia - a religious sect, followers of ali, the fourth khalifa of islam.
shizra - genealogical chart maintained by the family.
sunni - a religious sect of islam.
surah - any of the 114 chapters of quran.
surkh - colour of ‘dinar’
talaq - divorce, free from bond.
talaq-i-sunna or ahsan - divorce according to the rule laid down in tradition from prophet.
talaq-i-hasan - divorce three times in succession at the interval of a month.
talaq-i-bidah - unilateral divorce.
talaq-i-faskh - divorce dissolved in court.
tuhr - purity period
zamin - land
zan - woman
zar - jewellery
zehad - a holy war.